From FCNN (Fake CNN), 01/24/2002:

"In a surprise announcement today, Microsoft Corp. announced that it
would shortly be entering the health-care software market, specifically,
it would write software to run EKG machines initially (called Microsoft
HeartBuddy), and then expand to other critical systems. The
specifications on the machines are not known, but Microsoft claims that
EKG machines running Microsoft HeartBuddy software would experience
"previously undreamed-of" performance, such as 40% uptime and only 120
known security holes upon shipping of the product. There specifications
were agreed upon when they discovered that the average human body can
withstand missing up to 5 heartbeats and not be seriously injured.
Quoting Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer:

"We figured that as long as it stayed up for most of an 8 hour shift in
a day, it didn't need to do much more than that. I mean, really, who's
gonna notice if it crashes a couple times?"

Microsoft was unable to explain how their product would be beneficial,
given that current EKG technology allows for 100% uptime in almost all
cases, and costs significantly less than HeartBuddy.

Microsoft plans to charge around $100,000 to $150,000 per unit, with
upgrades mandatory every three months. The upgrades will cost around
$75,000 apiece, and will be cryptographically signed by a special
digital signature known only to Microsoft, giving competitors no chance
to reclaim lost market share in this field. Microsoft also plans to
seamlessy integrate it's Office software into HeartBuddy, giving the
doctor the ability to write and print death certificates right on the
EKG itself.

In the past, Microsoft's security measures have been cracked fairly
easily. In one such instance, Windows XP's much lauded copyright
protection scheme was broken within hours of the XP launch party, but
Microsoft sees this as a fluke, and not worth comment. Jack Valenti of
the RIAA, however, had this to say:

"We're paying Microsoft quite a bit of money to keep our material
secure, and they can't get it done! They can't even keep their own
servers secure!" (he is referring to the two times Microsoft's network
was cracked by outside hackers, one defacing the Hotmail email service,
and the other stealing the source code to Windows itself)"

Many others are also skeptical about Microsoft's move to enter this

market, saying that their software is not reliable enough and has too
many security holes, citing the IE 6.0 remote take-over vulnerability,
or the literally hundreds of email viruses Microsoft Outlook makes
possible, or the many holes in Microsoft's IIS web server. But Microsoft
soothes these nay-sayers by stating that anyone who makes statements
against Microsoft will have it's product copied by Microsoft and given
away free in the next version of Windows."

This is a spoof of a real news article, but if you allow Microsoft to
continue it's monopoly, this kind of thing is not far off. It will have
no reason to provide quality, competitive products and services, since
it will have government approval to squash it's competition and charge
outrageous prices for substandard goods. Don't allow the Standard Oil of
the 21st century to beat us: rule in the interest of the people.
Sentence Microsoft to a three-way breakup: one company to handle IE, one
to handle Office, and one to handle Windows itself. I know you will do
the right thing. Thank you.

A Hopeful American,

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